A watershed moment for African philanthropy
Investment in education: a path to peace and prosperity

The African Governance Network and Human Rights Action have just launched a $20 million initiative that will establish a new fund for the purposes of the causes the network has previously worked on or funded research. An issue is that a broader and more systemic approach to addressing the challenges of human rights and governance will be required.

We were quick to respond to the situation and our team sought to address a gap in African Philanthropy Network’s (APN) resources. Since our team has been working on various human rights issues, another task was to assess how we could support the initiative. The aim of this initiative is to balance African philanthropy with a focus on the funding of concrete initiatives—such as the training of teachers and the building of infrastructure—combined with sustainability.

The philanthropic community has made some progress in catalyzing investments, and the capacity of organizations that make up the network are now less time-consuming to fund. This is because of the increased efficiency in fund management. This initiative is more developed than philanthropy in Africa which varies from one area to another, given the difference in the level of funding. In many instances, this type of philanthropy is horizontal; it does not pose any specific challenge but sustains a wide range of activities.

In this context, a recommendation is that donors, who are already active in various contexts, are now driven to turn to initiatives that are more likely to bring about a fundamental change in education and social development. They should consider the issue of education as one of the main engines of growth and the drive for social and economic development.

Two fundamental challenges face the stakeholders in the area of this work. They are: slow progress on human rights and the challenge of dealing with the consequences of the crisis in the Middle East. In addition, it is difficult to assess how to fund human rights. Meanwhile, a region is particularly rich in educational initiatives and is looking to the continent to garner more funding.

At this stage of the project, our criteria is simple: the criteria is to build on initiatives that reflect on the existing priorities of donors. The focus is on making sure that the efforts have been coordinated with others. The network has been working on various issues with a focus on the funding of concrete initiatives—such as the training of teachers and the building of infrastructure—combined with sustainability. This initiative is more developed than philanthropy in Africa which varies from one area to another, given the difference in the level of funding. In many instances, this type of philanthropy is horizontal; it does not pose any specific challenge but sustains a wide range of activities.

We also explored, Human Rights Action worked without any funds. Almost all, former Executive Director of the African Human Rights Commission, and in various countries to the Human Rights Commission at the African Union, developed an initiative called “Better Human Rights” which was clearly aligned with the African Union’s efforts. This initiative was launched in 2013 and has received overwhelming support from the continent. It has helped to advance human rights issues, especially in conflict situations.

(Elbheat, 2013) This is just one part of a larger article found in the African Governance Network. It is a challenging moment for our understanding of governance and the importance of financing the continent. It is important that we continue to build on the momentum and support for the efforts of the African Union and other regional bodies toward a more coordinated and effective response to regional challenges.

Every Human Rights and Human Rights Commission.

Footnotes
1. Chavez, Kenia, as a movement, is not necessarily a result of ideological change but rather an expression of the need to adopt a more participatory approach to governance, education, and political stability within a globalized world. In the world’s globalization process, the importance of thinking about development in a globalized world.

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